

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces and supersedes all prior listings of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of claims:**

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended): A cosmetic composition containing at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, wherein the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, ~~said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin~~ the compounds being obtained by a process comprising the steps of oligomerization of:

(1) oligomerizing monomers consisting of:

- (a) ~~at least one~~ or more branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms, or
- (b) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, or
- (c) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms, and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids and Lewis-acid-based catalysts, to form a branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin,  
and

(2) optionally, hydrogenating said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin is incorporated in a cosmetic composition.

15. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 12 to 36 carbon atoms.

16. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 14 to 24 carbon atoms.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein a mixture (b) of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 12 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 12 carbon atoms is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids and Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

19. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein said linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, and 1-pentene.

20. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein said branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl-1-heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene and 4-methyl-1-pentene.

21. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein said branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl-1-heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene and 4-methyl-1-pentene, and wherein said linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, and 1-pentene.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, in the form of a w/o or o/w emulsion.

24. (Currently amended): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, comprising 0.1 to 100% by weight of oil components, based on the total quantity of oil components, inclusive of ~~[[the]]~~ said at least one oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin.

25. (Currently amended): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, comprising 1 to 50% by weight of oil components, based on the total quantity of oil components, inclusive of ~~[[the]]~~ said at least one oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin olefin or hydrogenated oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin.

26. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, further comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of a surface-active substance or a mixture of surface-active substances.

27. (Previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, further comprising at least one antiperspirant and/or deodorant active principle.

28. (Currently amended): An antiperspirant or deodorant composition comprising:

(i) at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, wherein the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, ~~said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin~~ the compounds being obtained by a process comprising the steps of oligomerization of:

(1) oligomerizing monomers consisting of:

(a) ~~at least one or more~~ branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms, or

(b) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, or

(c) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids and Lewis-acid-based catalysts, to form a branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin,

and

(2) optionally, hydrogenating said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin;

and

(ii) at least one antiperspirant or deodorant active principle.

29. (Previously presented): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 12 to 36 carbon atoms.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein a mixture (b) of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 12 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 12 carbon atoms is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids and Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

32. (Previously presented): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein said linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, and 1-pentene, and said branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl-1-heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene and 4-methyl-1-pentene.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, in the form of a w/o or o/w emulsion.

35. (Previously presented): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, further comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of a surface-active substance or a mixture of surface-active substances.

36. (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, wherein the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, ~~said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin~~ the compounds being obtained by a process comprising the steps of oligomerization of:

(1) oligomerizing monomers consisting of:

- (a) at least one or more branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,  
or
- (b) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, or
- (c) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids and Lewis-acid-based catalysts, to form a branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin,  
and

(2) optionally, hydrogenating said branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin or hydrogenated branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin is incorporated in a pharmaceutical composition.